

Camp near Fredericksburg, Va
April 17, 1863

Dear Sister,

Your letter of the 7th came to hand and as I wrote to John a few days after his omitted assuming it and as our camp is very dull at present I have nothing new to write. We have preaching and prayer meetings near our quarters about 3 or 4 times a week and I am glad to say not without some effect there has a considerable number Professed Religion and several joined the church and it seems to be on the increase the soldiers give to preaching and really seem to take great interest even those that have never taken any interest in any religious service before. The minister said in his sermon a few days ago that our army could do more by sincere prayers than with the musket to close the war. And it seems as if they intend to try it. Our Brigade is not the only one that seems concerned from I can here it is almost the whole Army of the Potomac.

I hope it will have the effect predicted by the preachers as I am hastily tired of the war.

And I think the most of both Armies are in the same consideration.

The yanks seem very anxious to know what we are doing. They had Mr. Low the Balloonist watching our Camp's yesterday all day and he was peeking into our Camp this morning Before Sunrise. Some of the Boys proposed show Show Ticker and inviting him to come over and attend our theater.

I do not believe I had told you that we was able to support of Company of Minstrals known as Kershaw Palmetto Minstrals it serves very well to pop off the time which is quite a drag now especially the nights as candles are so scarce and hard to get that those that are disposed to read cannot do so after dark, and, this country is not helped with a sufficiency of pine to answer the purpose. The minstrals make fine musick and I am _____. Our Quarters are near enough to get a benefit at all times and have rather a fortunate position to enjoy all of varieties of camp. Not a day or scarcely a night passes without preaching, prayer meeting, or the Minstrals is in hearing. This is associating the sublime with the ridiculous but as an rostrum answers for both I offer it as my excuse for _____ although there is nothing that could be called offensive connected with the Show. They make some musick and sing a few commick songs is about the extent of there exhibitions. Shoe leather is too high to wear it out on the jig question consequently no dancing. The weather has changed considerably in the last few days and we have some prospect of pleasant weather. You asked me something about how I was doing in the way of provisions. Rations are rather short but it is a poor commissary that cannot get enough for himself. There is very little grumbling among the men. Occasionally some men appear dissatisfied but it is less than you would imagine. The ration is $\frac{1}{4}$ lb bacon, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ _ flour and 10 _ rice or peas.

As for my part I am doing fine, for dinner today is peach rolls, and a sufficiency of othe things, for supper waffle and coffee, butter and __. Who wants any better? Give your self no uneasiness about me.

I am all alone now as all hand in the department is absent on furlough. Genl. Lee is stil granting some furloughs, does not look like moving soon. You must give my love to Aunt Harriet when you see he. I intend writing her soon.

I hav not recd a letter from home since Pope came. That was after the 7th.

I sent Aunt Harriet a paper you will forward it. This leaves us all well and hoping it may find you all injoying the same health.

Tell John I would like to here from him sum.

Howdy to all of my friends.

I will close. You must get thru this long and uninteresting epistle the best you can as I could no better at preasant. Howdy to the Miss Maggie Cameron.

I remain your affectionate Brother,

Newt

Howdy to the darkies.